

Minutes
of the Conference Call Meeting
of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
Held on May 3, 2006 at CDFA Headquarters, Room 333, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Participating

Kevin Andrew	Frank Leeds	Herb Schmidt
Pete Downs	Steve McIntyre	Jim Unti
Hugh "Wally" Ewart	Dana Merrill	Paul Wulf

Members Not Participating

Dennis Atkinson	Brad Lange
Greg Coleman	Al Rossini
Ben Drake	

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Nat Dibuduo	Janet LeMasters	Ted Rieger
Tom Esser	Julie Lindsey	Bob Wynn
Mike Falasco	Greg Morris	

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Pete Downs called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board. A quorum was present. Bob introduced the other participants present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Pete Downs welcomed the group to the conference call.

Bob Wynn reported on the following:

- There is a rumor, not yet confirmed, that the House Appropriations Committee included \$28.5 million in the budget for Pierce's disease. [Note: this later proved to be \$24.18 million.]
- Efforts are underway to revitalize the Ventura County area-wide project. A grower meeting was held on April 27, 2006 to encourage participation in the project. They are currently looking for a treatment coordinator. There are unusually high populations of GWSS being trapped there.
- The Arizona Department of Agriculture will be imposing a quarantine on GWSS, effective July 1, 2006. The comment period is currently open.
- A new infestation of *Diaprepes* root weevil was found in San Diego County. It was found because an entomology student had specimens of *Diaprepes* in an insect collection she submitted for one of her classes.
- No additional information has been provided by the court concerning the EIR lawsuit.

NEXT MEETING

Chairperson Pete Downs reminded Board members that a joint meeting of the PD/GWSS Board and the PD Advisory Task Force was scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2006, in Sacramento. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and would be held at the CDFA headquarters building in the Auditorium.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR RFP UPDATE

Tom Esser reported on the results of the RFP for a PD/GWSS Research Director. There were 29 requests for packets but only one bid was submitted. Follow-up was done with those who did not submit bids. The reason cited most often was that they did not feel they met the required qualifications.

The Board discussed its options, given the low response rate. The options were to go forward with the single bid, re-advertise without changing the required qualifications, or re-advertise with revised qualifications. No decision was made.

PLANT PATHOLOGY CONSORTIUM UPDATE

Tom Esser reported that three research proposals were being developed by the Plant Pathology Consortium (PPC), a collaboration of representatives from the grape, citrus, and almond industries, the University of California, the USDA, Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), and others. Dr. Goutam Gupta of LANL is spearheading the effort. The proposals may be presented to the Board for funding consideration. Preliminary proposals had been received recently and were being reviewed by outside scientific experts.

OTHER ITEMS

Tom Esser reported that the review of research proposals submitted in response to the RFP was proceeding smoothly. He and Rick Roush, the manager of the RFP process for the UC-PD program, were considering having a summit to review the RFP and the overall research program. Chairperson Pete Downs asked that they report on this at the May 16, 2006 joint Board and Task Force meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Pete Downs thanked everyone for participating in the call. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.